Hill House, Wigton. Cumb

4th Feby 1908.

To the Urban District Council of Wigton.

Gentlemen

On reviewing the vital statistics for the year 1907 it will be found that compared with the average of the ten years ending 1906 there is a diminished mortality of 2.11 per thousand of the population.

65 deaths were registered in the district inclusive of 9 non-residents who died in the Workhouse, which upon an estimated population of 3530 gives a mortality of 18.41 per thousand per annum of the population

To find the nett mortality correction has to be made by deducting the 9 non-residents and adding the deaths of 3 residents who died in institutions beyond the district, the total is thus reduced to 59 and the nett or true death rate becomes 16.71 per thousand.

The rate for England and Wales for 1907 is 15 per thousand.

27 persons at death had attained the age of 65 years and upwards.

8 deaths were registered as due to tubercular diseases, a death rate of 2.26 per thousand.

7 Infants under the age of one year died during the year giving the remarkably low infant mortality of 80.46 per thousand births against 111.11 for 1906 and 152.79 the average of the last ten years, the rate for England and Wales being 118. for the year.

The number of births for the year is 87 aginst 81 for 1906 and an average of 95 for the last ten years, this gives a birth-rate of 24.64 per thousand of the population for the last ten years the average rate was 25.88 and the rate for England and Wales for 1907 is 26.3.

The epidemic of measles which commenced in the autumn of 1906 was continued to the early part of 1907 when two deaths were registered as due to this disease.

21 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year viz:- 6 of erysipelas, 14 of scarlet fever and one of typhoid fever, the last named ended fatally, this and the two deaths from measles give a zymotic death-rate of .85 per thousand of the population, the rate for England and Wales is 1.26.

The cases of erysipelas were sporadic, one occurring in the Workhouse.

My attention was drawn to the first 5 cases of scarlet fever on Sept 27th by the school attendance officer, the five children resided in three adjoining houses and the remaining cases occurred at intervals in various parts of the town up to the end of the year.

I would again strongly urge the desirability of your providing an isolation hospital for infectious diseases which would greatly mitigate the danger to the community when visited by the various epidemic diseases.

The water supply from two springs in the limestone is exceptionally pure and abundant and since the completion of the new main in iron is especially free from risks of pollution.

As an agricultural centre the inhabitants are largely composed of persons engaged in the various distributive trades, the industries are few and consist chiefly of a clothing manufactory, a tannery and a jam factory, there are also timber yards, clog sole makers &c No special influence on the public health can be attributed to these occupations.

The house accomodation is for the most part satisfactory from a sanitary point of view, but in certain localities the air space about the houses is limited, the houses themselves are badly lighted and ventilated owing in some instances to the fact that they are constructed back to back and that consequently each house is limited to one entrance.

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The drainage of the district is good, the sewers being regularly flushed and kept in order. the outfall discharging on to a sewage farm of 15 acres. a satisfactory effluent being produced which flows into the river Waver.

House refuse is removed by the public scavengers regularly and frequently.

For excrement disposal the water-carriage system is employed which is thoroughly efficient owing to the abundant water supply.

The common lodging houses are frequently inspected, they are kept clean and regularly whitewashed and are not overcrowded.

The slaughter houses and bakehouses have been regularly and systematically inspected, they are kept clean and in a satisfactory condition.

On the 24th of June in company with your Inspector I visited the Dairies and Cowsheds and with one exception found them clean, well drained and for the most part well ventilated. With regard to the exception notice was given to cleanse and whitewash the cowshed and to remove a manure heap which was complied with.

The manure heap from another Cowshed was in too close proximity to certain dwelling houses, notice was served by the Clerk to remove this which was also complied with.

With the above exception the Dairies and Cowsheds have been kept clean and in a satisfactory state and have been systematically visited by your Inspector.

The sanitary condition of the Public elementary schools is satisfactory, there being an abundant water supply, the schools were closed up to the 21st of January owing to the prevalence of measles.

In company with your Inspector I have visited the factories and workshops of the district and found them satisfactory

I enclose tables of statistics Nos. I, III, IV & V with Form 572 Factory and Workshop Act 1901.

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Gentlemen

Your Obedient Servant

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